In memoriam Prof. Dr Leo Daniel Brongersma (1907-1994)

M.S. Hoogmoed

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A biography of Leo Daniel Brongersma is given, highlighting his significance for herpetology worldwide, and especially for snake anatomy, sea turtle distribution, faunistics of New Guinea and Indo-Australia. Lists of patronyms, of species named by Brongersma and of his publications are given. Also his important role in the history of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie is discussed.

On July 24, 1994 Prof. Dr L.D. Brongersma, emeritus professor of Systematic Zoology at Leiden University, late director of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden, and dean of Dutch and European herpetology, died at the age of 87. Leo Daniel Brongersma was born on May 17, 1907 in Bloemendaal, west of Amsterdam. Although he was born in the part of The Netherlands known as Holland, he prided himself on the Frisian roots of his family. After following high school in Bloemendaal, he read biology at the then Municipal University of Amsterdam, where his interest in herpetology soon became evident. In 1927, at the age of 20, he published his first scientific article as co-author, on the results of a dissection of a specimen of the recently described giant monitor *Varanus komodoensis* that had died in the Amsterdam Zoo. In the same year he described the lizard *Neusticurus dejongi* (now considered a synonym of *Neusticurus rudis*) from Suriname. The following years, until 1934, were very prolific, with a total of 29 publications, at least one per year, but generally more. Among the new taxa described in these papers there were many snakes, a few lizards, and one frog (*Hyla proboscidea)*, which would turn out to be the only new taxon of amphibian ever described by Brongersma. Soon he was captivated by the rich reptile fauna of the former Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia), and many of his publications dealt with small collections from that area. His thesis (Contributions to Indo-Australian Herpetology) was defended on September 19, 1934 and earned him the distinction "cum laude". His thesis, which only dealt with reptiles despite the more inclusive title, can be considered as an addition to, and an updating of, the classical work of de Rooy (1915, 1917, Reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago). Brongersma obtained his doctor's title one hour after his wife to be (Margaretha Sanders, born February 20, 1905) obtained hers, on a paleontogical subject. A month later, on October 30, 1934 the two were married. The marriage was blessed with the birth of a daughter Titia Aukje Johanna Maria on October 25, 1935 and a son, Hidde Herman, on February 18, 1940. Titia became a biologist, Hidde a chemist.

After the initial phase in his research, with rather diverse subjects, but with an emphasis on Indo-Australian herpetology, Brongersma's attention turned to the anatomy of snake lungs and associated bloodvessels and its significance for taxonomy. This period lasted from the late 1930's until the mid-1950's. As turned out later



Fig. 1. Prof. L.D. Brongersma in his study in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, surrounded by material (± 1935).

this was part of the basis of the new classification of snakes as proposed by Underwood (1967).

In October 1945 Brongersma travelled to Port Dickson, Malaya on his way to take up the post of temporary director of the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense on Java. Travel for Dutch citizens to the Netherlands East Indies was not possible, and in order to transport Dutch civil servants to the area to take up key posts, they had to become (temporary) military personal and to achieve this they were 'militarized' (NICA). Brongersma received the rank of temporary reserve-major for Special Services with the KNIL (Royal Dutch East Indies Army) and as such commanded the Dutch batallion of 450 man in Port Dickson. During this period he had some 'problems' with a certain private Schulz, who rather neglected rules about returning to base at certain times. For that offence he was jailed for some time on the orders of Brongersma. When J.P. Schulz later became a fellow researcher on sea turtles in Suriname the past played up and there was some uneasiness in the relations between the two, but in due time this was overcome. When Brongersma eventually reached Java in April 1946 it turned out that the director of the museum at Buitenzorg (Bogor), Dr M.A. Lieftinck, had survived the war and was completely able to perform his duties as a director, and Brongersma returned to Holland early in July 1946 to take up again his responsabilities at the museum in Leiden.

In the period between the Second World War and the early fifties, Brongersma was coordinator of the Pietersberg (St. Peter's Mountain) faunistic survey by the museum's personnel in the southernmost part of The Netherlands in the province of Limburg. Much of the research took place in the man-made caves in the limestone mountain. The results of these surveys were published in the fifties (1950-58).

During the fifties Brongersma's attention turned to Netherlands New Guinea, and he made several collecting trips there, culminating in the six months multidisciplinary expedition to the Mountains of the Stars. During this period Brongersma developed strong ties with the Dutch navy, which generously provided transportation to New Guinea, and lodging in their camps during the field trips. Brongersma first visited New Guinea in 1952 in the company of the technician W.J. Roosdorp. They left The Netherlands in January 1952 by Catalina flying boat and in New Guinea visited Biak, the Wisselmeren (Wissel Lakes), Central Highlands, Sorong, Fakfak, Kaimana, Merauke, Hollandia, Misool, Salawatti and Mapia Atoll (Vervoort, 1994, 1995). A second visit was made in 1954/55 together with the curators Drs L.B. Holthuis and M. Boeseman. Places visited included Hollandia at Lake Sentani, Lake Jamoer, and Tanah Mera on the Upper Digoel. Plans for a large scale multidisciplinary expedition to the unexplored Mountains of the Stars, close to the border with Papua New Guinea, began to take firmer shape in 1956 when Brongersma and Air-commander G.F. Venema made a trip to New Guinea in preparation for the expedition, which eventually took place in 1959. Brongersma was the general and scientific leader of the expedition, Venema the technical leader. The staff of the expedition consisted of 15 scientists and assistants, four of which (2 scientists [L.D. Brongersma and Dr W. Vervoort] and two technicians [J.J. Staats and C. van Heijningen]) belonged to the staff of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, now the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, three medical staff, a marines and a police detachment. During a period of six months the members of the expedition carried out anthropo-



Fig. 2. Prof. L.D. Brongersma and his wife, M. Brongersma-Sanders, ± 1990 (photo Mrs. I. Henneke).



Fig. 3. Prof. L.D. Brongersma in base camp in a characteristic pose during the expedition to the Mountains of the Stars, 1959 (photo J.J. Staats).

logical, ethnological, linguistic, geological, botanical and zoological explorations, that yielded much new information. The expedition greatly benefitted of the possibilities to reach out of the way places by helicopters, although some accidents, with only material damage, occurred. The expedition accomplished the first march along a transect from the south coast to the north coast, several members of the expedition were the first to climb Mount Juliana and to reach the snow-capped top. While it lasted, the expedition got extensive press coverage. At a certain stage it ran into financial difficulties from which it was saved by a Dutch shipbuilder. For philatelists it may be interesting to know that a special poststamp was issued to commemorate the expedition. Brongersma had a special seal produced and spent some time to personnally stamp all First Day Covers that were sent from the expedition's Base Camp in the Sibil Valley, this to the great chagrin of the Postmaster General in Hollandia, who appeared to have administrative problems with the 'competition' from the Sibil Valley. During the expedition large collections of zoological material (but also herbarium specimens, geological samples, human blood samples and ethnographical material) were assembled, which served as the basis for many publications, of which the herpetological work by M.J. Tyler (1968, Papuan Hylid frogs of the genus *Hyla*) merits special mention here. The large series of skinks have proved very useful to researchers like W.C. Brown, A.E. Greer and G. Zug. Several Dutch students have

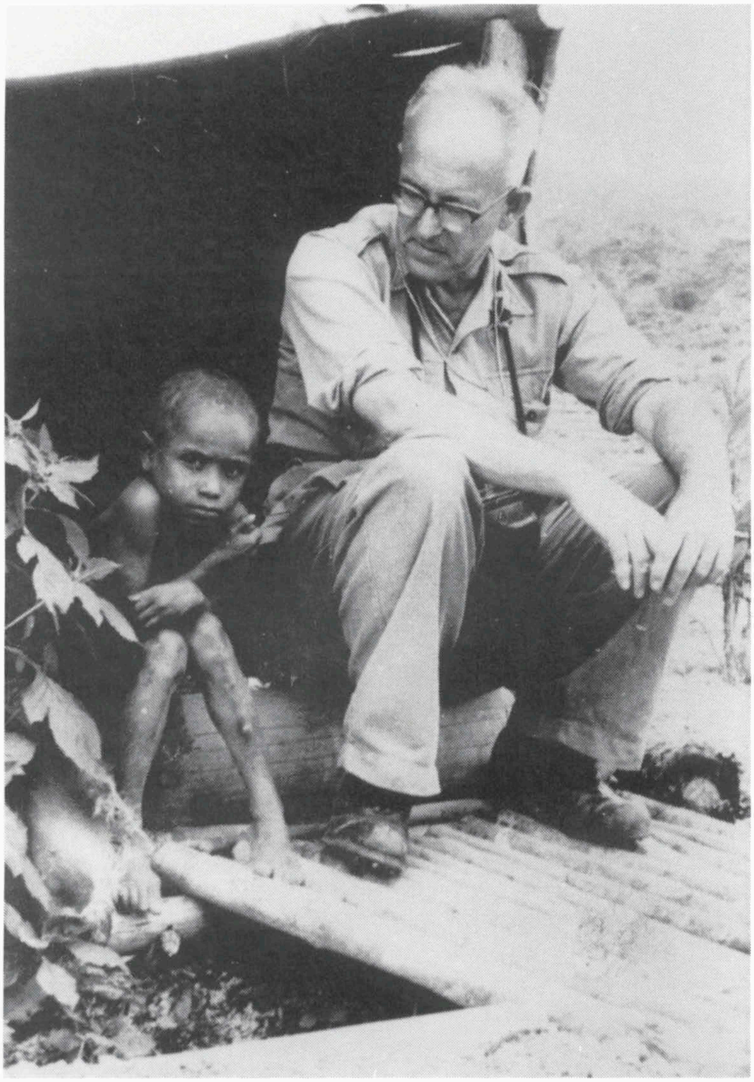


Fig. 4. Prof. L.D. Brongersma in base camp with a local Papua child during the expedition to the Mountains of the Stars, 1959 (photo J.J. Staats).

studied part of the herpetological collections, but due to time constraints none of these studies reached the stage of publication. Brongersma himself started several projects on New Guinea material (*Gymnodactylus*, freshwater turtles), but due to his increasing workload as director of the Leiden museum, these were never completed, and partly were superceded by the work of others. Not all collected material has been studied yet and it still is available for interested researchers. A general account of the expedition was published by Brongersma and Venema in the book "To the mountains of the Stars", which was translated into six languages (English, French, German, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish) from the original Dutch version.



Fig. 5. Prof. L.D. Brongersma on the beach in Ameland, The Netherlands, during the salvaging of a stranded *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linnaeus) (RMNH 14914), August 4, 1968 (photo C. Hoorn Jr.).

During 1962-1964 Brongersma was one of the leaders of the combined zoological/geological field trips to the Ria de Arosa in NW Spain.

Apart from the fieldwork in New Guinea and Spain Brongersma made a trip (in the company of his family) to Libya where he assembled an interesting collection of mostly reptiles. Most of Brongersma's other trips were to visit meetings or congresses (see Boschma, 1972 for an overview) or to other museums in Europe or abroad in relation with his research. After his retirement, he made several trips to Georgia, U.S.A. to visit nesting beaches of *Caretta caretta* and also continued to participate in meetings on sea turtle subjects.

Starting 1960 Brongersma became interested in sea turtles, and especially in specimens beached on European shores or sighted in European waters. In contrast to most other sea turtle specialists, who studied sea turtles at their nesting beaches in the tropics, Brongersma studied them at the other end of the world in Europe where they arrived as stragglers, generally meeting their death, and preservation in museum collections. He remained enthralled by sea turtles until his death, and also became involved in the heated discussions on the value of turtle-farms for the conservation of sea turtles. He was firmly convinced that such institutions did have a positive conservation value, which caused him to come into conflict with several, especially American, colleagues who were of the (mostly emotionally based) opinion that these farms have a negative effect on the wild populations. In order to obtain data for his magnum opus entitled "European Atlantic Turtles" Brongersma minutely recorded all documented strandings and sightings in European waters, and it gradually became apparent there was a certain pattern in it all. To obtain his infor-

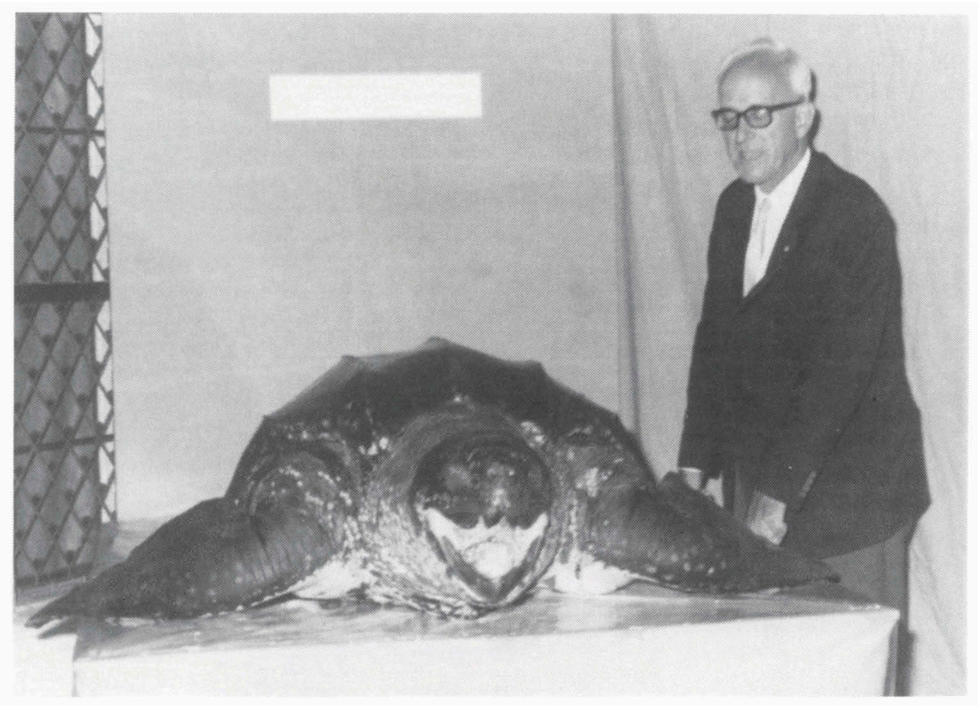


Fig. 6. Prof. L.D. Brongersma with one of the frozen *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linnaeus) (RMNH 16802-03) that were exhibited in the hallway of the museum in August 1971 (Photo M.S. Hoogmoed).

mation Brongersma not only studied specimens in European collections, but also minutely searched numerous scientific publications and archives. He obtained much information from newspaper clippings. Some of the information incorporated dated from 1701, and he documented strandings as far back as the 13th century. During Brongersma's studies it became evident that sea turtle nesting beaches still were present and actively used in southern Europe, and that the rumours that had been circulating about them were based on truth. In making this compilation Brongersma hoped to solve the following problems, which, to use his own words, were: 1, from where do they come, and how do they get here; 2, what causes a turtle to leave a region with a suitable climate to go to an area where the climatic circumstances make survival for any length of time and breeding impossible; 3, how long does it take a turtle to complete the trip to Europe; 4, is this journey always one from which no return is possible? (cited from Boschma, 1972, with a minor correction). Although Brongersma could not provide a final answer to these questions, he could present several hypotheses. In his sea turtle work he doubtlessly profited from the fact that his wife had become a well-known oceanographer and could provide him with information on sea- currents and other oceanographic phenomena.

Brongersma became curator of reptiles and amphibians at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in 1932, and kept this position (with a short break due to the economic situation in the Netherlands in the thirties) until 1958 when he became director of the museum, from which position he retired in 1972. During part of this



Fig. 7. Prof. L.D. Brongersma watching the dissection of *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linnaeus) (RMNH 16802-03) by technicians of the museum (from left to right: J.J.P. Paats, L.D. Brongersma, J. Schouten, and the student A.M. Deelder), August 1971 (photo M.S. Hoogmoed).

period he also occupied the post of curator of Pleistocene fossils from the Netherlands East Indies (1936-1947) (table 1).

Brongersma was highly motivated to share his knowledge on reptiles and on vertebrates in general with other persons. This was demonstrated by the fact that he applied for the position of Privaat-Docent at Leiden University and in 1938 was admitted as such. This is an unsalaried, voluntary position at the university which gives the right to lecture students. In 1951 his accomplishments in the field of teaching were recognised by his appointment as Reader in Systematic Zoology (a regular university position), and in 1964 by his appointment as Professor Extraordinarius in Systematic Zoology. Not quite coincidentally the title of the lecture with which he accepted his nomination as Professor Extraordinarius, was "Qua patet orbis", which not only related to the distribution of sea turtles, but also is the motto of the Dutch Marines, with whom Brongersma had developed excellent relations during his years in New Guinea.

As a student in the early sixties, I still have vivid memories of Brongersma's lively lectures on vertebrate systematics, and especially, of course, of the extensive lectures on herpetology. He regularly 'spiced' his lectures with exotic tales about the palatability of the organisms concerned, although these tales stopped at the amphibians, because organisms lower than that were not considered food items by Brongersma. Under Brongersma's guidance or under his reponsibility, many students performed research in the herpetological and other collections of the Rijksmuseum van

Table 1. Historical overview of main periods in Prof. L.D. Brongersma's carreer.

1928 - 1934:	Assistant at the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam.
1932 - 1933:	Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.
1933 - 1936:	Assistant at the Dubois Palaeontological Collection at Leiden.
1934 - 1936:	Assistant at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.
1936 - 1947:	Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians and Curator of Pleistocene fossils from the Netherlands East Indies at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.
1948 - 1958:	Senior Curator of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.
1950 - 1958:	Deputy Director Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden
1958 - 1972:	Director Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.
1938 - 1951:	Privaat-Docent in Vertebrate Systematics at Leiden University.
1951 - 1964:	Lector (Reader) in Systematic Zoology at Leiden University.
1964 - 1972:	Professor Extraordinarius in Systematic Zoology at Leiden University.
1972 - 1976:	Director ad-interim of the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie, Leiden.

Natuurlijke Historie. Although some of the research executed under this program was of good quality and earned the students high grades, only few of these masters theses were published (exceptions are Brongersma & Helle, 1951, and Brongersma & Knaap-van Meeuwen, 1964), due to lack of time to make them suitable for publication. After his appointment as Professor Extraordinarius Brongersma obtained the right to act as promotor for PhD students to obtain the doctoral degree (PhD). Under his responsibility the following eight doctoral degrees were awarded:

14 May 1969, A.C. van Bruggen: Studies on the land molluscs of Zululand, with notes on the distribution of land molluscs in southern Africa (van Bruggen, 1969).

21 May 1969, C. Lewinsohn: Die Anomuren des Roten Meeres (Crustacea Decapoda: Paguridae, Galatheidae, Hippidea) (Lewinsohn, 1969).

3 September 1969, P.J. van Helsdingen: A reclassification of the species of *Linyphia* Latreille based on the functioning of the genitalia (Araneida, Linyphiidae). Part I, *Linyphia* Latreille and *Neriene* Blackwall (van Helsdingen, 1969).

9 December 1970, J. van der Land: Systematics, zoogeography, and ecology of the Priapulida (van der Land, 1970).

24 October 1973, E. Gittenberger: Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Pupillacea. III. Chondrininae (Gittenberger, 1973).

17 December 1973, M.S. Hoogmoed: Notes on the herpetofauna of Surinam IV. The lizards and amphisbaenians of Surinam (Hoogmoed, 1973).

14 October 1975, H.K. Loose: Pleistocene Rhinocerotidae of W. Europe, with reference to the recent two-horned species of Africa and S.E. Asia (Loose, 1975).

15 October 1975, W. Backhuys: Zoogeography and taxonomy of the land and freshwater molluscs of the Azores (Backhuys, 1975).

Most of these people made their mark on systematic zoology in the Netherlands. Seven persons were Dutch, Lewinsohn was an Israeli citizen. Only my own doctoral dissertation dealt with a herpetological subject, all others were a consequence of Brongersma's involvement with educational matters that went beyond the field of herpetology. One more taxonomic herpetological doctoral dissertation was defended at Leiden University in which Brongersma was involved. This was H.W. Parker's



Fig. 8. Prof. L.D. Brongersma receives the diploma of Honorary Fellow of the Zoological Society of London from the hands of H.R.H. the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in the building of the Zoological Society, London Zoo, May 4, 1976.



Fig. 9. Prof. L.D. Brongersma starting the dissection of *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linnaeus) (RMNH 23593) that was collected alive on the Terschellinger Gronden, near the Thomas Smit narrows, August 4, 1981 (The Netherlands) (photo E.J.M. van Esch).

dissertation "The Snakes of Somaliland and the Sokotra Islands", which was defended in 1949 under the responsibility of Brongersma's predecessor as museum director and professor of Systematic Zoology, Prof. Dr H. Boschma. Although Brongersma was not the promotor, he was instrumental in introducing Parker to Boschma and played an active part in the preparatory stages of this dissertation. Brongersma was also very active in getting the thesis of C.J. Overweel on erratic rocks published while he was director ad-interim of the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie.

Brongersma also tried to divulge the museum's expertise by promoting exhibitions, but due to space constraints in the museum's buildings these only could be realised within the walls of the museum on exceptional occasions. The arrival of two

stranded leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in August 1971 was such an occasion. The time necessary for the deep-frozen specimens to defrost them for dissection was used to exhibit them to the public in the hall of the museum on very short notice (fig. 6). The occasion was used to give some information about the life cycle of the turtle. Several hundreds of visitors seized the opportunity to see the specimens. Also at the occasion of the museum's 150th anniversary in 1970, a small exhibition was mounted in the corridors and hallway of the Raamsteeg building for some weeks, giving details about the museum's work in the past 150 years, but also highlighting the fieldwork and research taking place at that time. As a result of Brongersma's efforts a special department was established that took care of exhibitions. In the course of time it evolved into a unit that specialised in making small travelling exhibitions for loan to other museums and nature centres, and which worked very succesfully until it recently was dissolved because of a reorganisation in the present department of exhibitions.

Immediately following his retirement, Brongersma served four years (1972-1976) as director ad-interim of the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie in Leiden (then under the administrative responsibility of Leiden University) which at that time was in a difficult position, with the role of geology in the University's programme coming to an end. Brongersma succeeded in stabilizing the situation and laid the foundation for the future merging of this museum with the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, which led to the present Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum. Already in the sixties Brongersma had suggested to the Government to merge both museums and thus reunite them after a separation of nearly 100 years. Thus, when the merger of the two museums took place in July 1984, he saw an old dream come true.

After his period at the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie had ended and Brongersma had more free time he regularly appeared in the museum to pursue his studies on sea turtles and on the biography of Eugène Dubois. Brongersma remained a regular visitor to the museum until about one year before his death, when his health no longer permitted him to come to the museum and work.

A large number of honorary memberships of scientific societies was bestowed upon Brongersma over the years. Among others, in 1939 he became a Honorary Foreign Member of the prestigious American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and in 1969 was appointed Honorary Fellow of the other large and distinguished American herpetological society, the Herpetologists' League. He was a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences since May 1952. In 1973 he was appointed Overseas Member of the Zoological Club, London and on December 17, 1975 Honorary Fellow of the Zoological Society, London. He received the accompanying certificate at the General Meeting of May 4, 1976, from the hands of H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. On April 27, 1976 he was appointed Honorary Associate of the British Museum (Natural History), as he proudly noted himself "the only alien to receive this nomination". As an anglophile Brongersma was especially proud of these last two nominations (table 2). Brongersma was also active in a number of other positions both in the Netherlands and abroad (table 3).

Brongersma was an agreeable person with a great sense of humour, which was

Table 2. Honorary memberships of Prof. L.D. Brongersma.

1. Honorary Foreign Member, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), letter of September 25, 1939 (he had been an ordinary member since 1928).
2. Corresponding Member, Zoological Society of London, December 19, 1951 (see no. 6).
3. Honorary Fellow, Academy of Zoology, Agra, India.
4. Fellow Zoological Society, Calcutta, Honoris causa, letter of July 8, 1964.
5. Honorary Member, Herpetologists' League (USA), letter of June 12, 1969.
6. Honorary Fellow, Zoological Society of London, December 17, 1975. The diploma was handed over at the General Meeting on May 4, 1976 by H.R.H. the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
7. Honorary Associate, British Museum (Natural History), Augustus 27, 1977.
8. Honorary member Nederlandse Doelgroep Slangen, October 15, 1983.

evident in his recounting stories about fieldwork and about how he had committed and greatly appreciated the act of "auto-cannibalism" when during his sojourn in Malacca he ate a well prepared python with the scientific name *Python curtus brongersmai*. On the other hand, he experimented with ways to humanely kill and preserve specimens. As an avid smoker he discovered that the final stubbs of self made cigarettes rolled of a famous brand of heavy Dutch tobacco served very well as an anaestethic for snakes. He just put a stubb in their mouths and they died with relaxed muscles after a few moments. According to me it says more about the quality of the tobacco and its effect on living beings than anything else. One of Brongersma's favourite standard expressions was that museum personnel working with alcoholic specimens should try to gain the same state as their material, that was 100% saturated with alcohol. Evidently this was a healthy condition considering the age of some of our specimens.

As director of the museum he always had the well-being of the museum and its personnel clearly at heart, and when, due to political changes in the sixties, the museum was transferred from the Ministry of Education and Science to the newly formed Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Well-being, and it looked like research would be considered a luxury, Brongersma succeeded in keeping a distinct role for research in the Museum. He stimulated field research by the museum's cura-

Table 3. Other memberships and international functions performed of Prof. L.D. Brongersma.

Overseas Member, Zoological Club, London, June 26, 1973.
Member Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen since May 1952.
Member Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen, Haarlem, May 16, 1966.
Advising member, Maatschappij ter bevordering van het Natuurkundig Onderzoek der Nederlandsche Koloniën, June 17, 1947 (later renamed: Maatschappij ter bevordering van het Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek van de Tropen).
Member of the board of WOTRO (Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research).
Member of the Advisory Committee for the Netherlands Natural History Museums.
Member of the Netherlands Committee for International Nature Conservation.
Member of the the Netherlands Committee of the International Council of Bird Protection.
Member of the IUCN Sea Turtle Specialist Group.

1953: Vice-President XIV International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen.

Table 4. Patronyms of Prof. L.D. Brongersma.

Reptiles and amphibians
Typhlops florensis brongersmai Mertens, 1929 (= *Rhamphotyphlops polygrammicus brongersmai* (Mertens, 1929))
Phrynobatrachus brongersmai Parker, 1936 (= *Phrynobatrachus ogoensis brongersmai* Parker, 1936)
Python curtus brongersmai Stull, 1938
Hyla brongersmai Loveridge, 1945 (= *Litoria brongersmai* (Loveridge, 1945))
Calamaria brongersmai Inger & Marx, 1965
Trimeresurus brongersmai Hoge, 1967
Bufo brongersmai Hoogmoed, 1972
Sphenomorphus brongersmai Storr, 1972
Typhlops brongersmai Vanzolini, 1972 (= *Typhlops brongersmianus* Vanzolini, 1976)
Tribolonotus brongersmai Cogger, 1972
Leiolopisma brongersmai Zweifel, 1972
Typhlops brongersmianus Vanzolini, 1976 (replacement name for *T. brongersmai* Vanzolini, 1972)
Tropidonophis mairii brongersmai Malnate & Underwood, 1988

Other animal groups
Mollusca
Babylonia leonis Altena & Gittenberger, 1972
Abida secale brongersmai Gittenberger, 1973
Nucula brongersmai Bergmans, 1978
Octocorallia
Sinularia brongersmai Verseveldt, 1972 (= *Sinularia abrubta* Tixier-Durivault, 1970)
Lepidoptera
Brongersmia Diakonoff, 1972
Paradichelia brongersmai Diakonoff, 1952
Hymenoptera
Alfonsiella brongersmai Wiebes, 1972
Araneidae
Neriene brongersmai van Helsdingen, 1969
Laetesia leo van Helsdingen, 1972
Hemiptera
Astacops brongersmai Blöte, 1972
Sibilicoris brongersmai Blöte, 1965
Coleoptera
Plectrone brongersmai Willemstein, 1972
Dermaptera
Mesochelidura brongersmai Boeseman, 1954 (= *Afroforficula brongersmai* (Boeseman, 1954))

Plants
Verbenaceae
Premna brongersmai Lam, 1954

Bryophyta
Trichosteleum brongersmae Van Zanten, 1964

Table 5. Taxa described by Prof. L.D. Brongersma in chronological order.

Neusticurus dejongi Brongersma, 1927 (= *Neusticurus rudis* Boulenger, 1900)
Hemidactylus vandermeermohri Brongersma, 1928 (= *Hemidactylus frenatus* D. & B., 1836)
Gymnodactylus novae-guineae Brongersma, 1928 (= *Cyrtodactylus papuensis* (Brongersma, 1934))
Calamaria doerianense Brongersma, 1928 (= *Calamaria lowi gimletti* Boulenger, 1905)
Calamaria javanica lineata Brongersma, 1928 (= *Calamaria lowi lowi* Boulenger, 1887)
Gehyra leopoldi Brongersma, 1930
Hemiphyllodactylus margarethae Brongersma, 1932
Gymnodactylus vankampeni Brongersma, 1933 (= *Nactus vankampeni* (Brongersma, 1933))
Leptotyphlops ihlei Brongersma, 1933 (= *Leptotyphlops macrolepis* (Peters, 1857))
Hyla proboscidea Brongersma, 1933 (= *Scinax proboscidea* (Brongersma, 1933))
Gymnodactylus papuensis Brongersma, 1934, replacement name for *Gymnodactylus novae-guineae* Brongersma, 1928 (nec Schlegel, 1844) (= *Cyrtodactylus papuensis* (Brongersma, 1934)
Torresia Brongersma, 1934 (= *Rhacodactylus* Fitzinger, 1843)
Typhlops koekkoeki Brongersma, 1934
Typhlops supranasalis Brongersma, 1934 (= *Typhlina flaviventer* (Peters, 1865))
Typhlops fusconotus Brongersma, 1934 (= *Typhlops diardi muelleri* Schlegel, 1839)
Typhlops similis Brongersma, 1934 (= *Typhlina flaviventer* (Peters, 1865))
Typhlops ater suturalis Brongersma, 1934 (= *Typhlops ater* Schlegel, 1839)
Boiga dendrophila occidentalis Brongersma, 1934
Aspidomorphus mülleri interruptus Brongersma, 1934 (= *Aspidomorphus muelleri* (Schlegel, 1837))
Aspidomorphus mülleri lineatus Brongersma, 1934 (= *Aspidomorphus muelleri* (Schlegel, 1837))
Pseudothecadactylus Brongersma, 1936, replacement name for *Torresia* Brongersma, 1934 (= *Rhacodactylus* Fitzinger, 1843).
Lygosoma (Sphenomorphus) emigrans kopsteini Brongersma, 1942
Lygosoma (Sphenomorphus) necopinatum necopinatum Brongersma, 1942
Lygosoma (Sphenomorphus) necopinatum garutense Brongersma, 1942
Lygosoma (Sphenomorphus) vanheurni Brongersma, 1942
Alopoglossus copii surinamensis Brongersma, 1946 (= *Alopoglossus angulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758))
Natrix mairii multiscutellata Brongersma, 1948
Gymnodactylus deveti Brongersma, 1948 (= *Cyrtodactylus deveti* (Brongersma, 1948))
Lygosoma (Leiolopisma) flavipes paniaiense Brongersma, 1949
Tropidophinae Brongersma, 1951
Pseudoxenodon inornatus buettikoferi Brongersma & Helle, 1951
Liasis boeleni Brongersma, 1953
Lygosoma (Leiolopisma) venemai Brongersma, 1953
Liasis mackloti savuensis Brongersma, 1956
Varanus hooijeri Brongersma, 1958
Denisonia boschmai Brongersma & Knaap-van Meeuwen, 1964 (= *Rhinoplocephalus boschmai* (Brongersma & Knaap-van Meeuwen, 1964))

tors and during his directorship much fieldwork took place in Suriname in relation to baseline studies concerning the filling of the Brokopondo artificial lake. Also, as a result of his good relationships with the navy the first oceanographic expeditions took place in the sixties, and formed the basis for much of the later oceanographic work done by the museum.

Brongersma's accomplishments in herpetology and in zoology in general were recognised by many colleagues and 13 reptiles and amphibians, 13 other animals and 2 plants were named in his honour (table 4). He published more than 200 scientific articles (List of publications) and described 36 new taxa (table 5). Of these taxa, 20 are still considered valid at present.

Brongersma opened several new pathways in herpetology. Starting out as a herpetologist with a distinctive interest in faunistic surveys, especially in the Indo-

Malayan archipelago, his attention soon turned to snake anatomy and its importance for taxonomy. He also organised the systematic zoological exploration of the former Netherlands New Guinea, which formed the basis of much of our present day knowledge of the fauna of the western part of the island. His sea turtle period is the fourth, longest and last era that can be distinguished in his long and active life as a herpetologist.

Besides his herpetological interests, Brongersma also pursued several other branches of science. He wrote an authoritative paper on fossil and recent cats of Java and Sumatra, and several other papers in the field of mammalogy. He also wrote one ornithological paper, one paper on Onychophora, and several chapters in general zoology textbooks and entries in general encyclopedias. His studies on snake trachea and lungs led him to study the parasitic Linguatulids he encountered, but none of the results have been published.

During the last years of his life Brongersma was actively working on a biography of Eugène Dubois, the famous Dutch paleontologist who discovered and described the Java ape-man *Pithecanthropus erectus*. Unfortunately this biography was not finished. This is the more regretable because Brongersma had been assistant to Dubois and had lively memories of working with this colourful person (Vervoort, 1995) and could have given a very personal touch to such a biography, judging by some of the stories he told about the outcome of his research on this subject.

Brongersma's death leaves a void, not only in the museum, but also in the herpetological field where he was a well-esteemed authority on sea turtles and complicated nomenclatural matters. His pioneering work on snake anatomy was well-recognised and forms an important part of the basis of present day snake taxonomy.

Brongersma is survived by his wife and his two children.

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List of publications by L.D. Brongersma

A complete list of publications by L.D. Brongersma over the period 1927-1972 was published by Boschma (1972). It is integrated in the present list of publications which has been corrected and updated (starting with 1972c).

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